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INFO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 8259
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 7403
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 2922
RUEHKF/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 9145
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 4994
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 000900

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/01/2018

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [FK](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#)

SUBJECT: AN ADDITION TO THE PM SHORT LIST: AHMED MUKHTAR

REF: ISLAMABAD 872

Classified By: Anne W. Patterson, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

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[1](#)1. (C) Summary: This is one of several profiles on politicians who may be major players in the new Pakistani government. Ahmed Mukhtar, a The Short List

[1](#)2. (SBU) Local papers February 28 featured for the first time Ahmed Mukhtar as a contender to become Pakistan's next prime minister. Mukhtar and Commerce Minister (1993-1996). Meeting with PoOff February 29, Mukhtar stressed that, beyond these brief stints, he has been a life-long

[1](#)3. (C) Mukhtar was proud of his time in prison, 2002-2003, 12 months of which were served together with PPP Co-Chair Asif Zardari in a Karachi Mukhtar's Own Short List

[1](#)4. (C) When asked about his apparent addition to the PM short list, Mukhtar denied that he forwarded his own name saying, "Any of us could. He admitted that he would very much like the position, if chosen, though he "preferred" to become President or Petroleum Minister.

[1](#)5. (C) Mukhtar asserted that Zardari, not the PPP's Central Executive Committee or the PPP parliamentary caucus, would decide the premiership

[1](#)6. (C) Asked about the PPP's agenda in the coming government, as well as his own priorities if he were selected prime minister, Mukhtar stated

[1](#)7. (C) Asked about restoration versus independence of the judiciary, Mukhtar said that judges deposed on November 3, 2007, should be returned

[1](#)8. (C) Mukhtar predicted the quick demise of Musharraf and his party. He predicted that 30 of 42 members of Musharraf's PML party in the Assembly
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Additional Bio Info

[1](#)9. (C) Mukhtar is viewed as a hawk within PPP circles and would like the party to seek retribution against the Chaudhrys of Gujrat, his primary

[1](#)10. (C) Mukhtar's relationship with Zardari goes back to their time together as cabinet colleagues from 1993-97. He reportedly lives off his

[1](#)11. (C) Mukhtar is rumored to have gifted Zardari significant amounts of money and is believed to have been involved in a number of corrupt

[1](#)12. (SBU) Born on June 22, 1946, Mukhtar earned a masters degree in operational management from Northrop University in 1974. He is married,

[1](#)13. (C) Comment: Zardari's distrust of the leading PPP PM contended Amin Faheem continues to feed speculation about alternatives. Some have
PATTERSON